United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of Public Affairs
Region 5
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Chicago, Illinois 60604

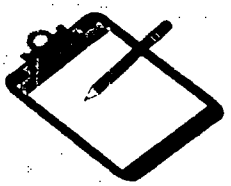
Illinois Indiana
Michigan Minnesota
Ohio Wisconsin

EPA PROPOSES A CLEANUP PLAN FOR CONTAMINATION AT EKCO HOUSEWARES, INC.

Massillon, Stark County, Ohio **September 1996**

THIS FACT SHEET DISCUSSES THE FOLLOWING:

- The history of the Ekco Housewares, Inc., facility
- Investigations conducted at the facility
- Potential health risks posed by facility contamination
- The proposed cleanup plan
- Public participation in selecting a cleanup remedy
- More information



PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Before selecting a final cleanup remedy for the Ekco facility, EPA is soliciting input from the community on all of the cleanup alternatives evaluated as well as its proposed cleanup plan. **EPA has set a public comment period from August 26 - September 26, 1996,** to give the public an opportunity to submit formal comments and participate in the cleanup selection process. Written comments can be submitted to EPA at the addresses listed on the last page of this fact sheet or you can use the comment sheet on Pages 5 and 6 to record your comments.

INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet presents the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed remedy for cleaning up contaminated soil and groundwater at the Ekco Housewares, Inc. (Ekco), facility in Massillon, Ohio. It also briefly discusses other alternatives considered for facility cleanup and explains the reasons for selecting the proposed remedy. EPA will select a cleanup plan for the Ekco facility only after the public is given the opportunity to comment on the proposed cleanup plan and all other cleanup alternatives considered for the facility.

This fact sheet is based on information obtained from a public document called a "Statement of Basis," which EPA requires to be prepared to fulfill public participation requirements under Section 3008(h) of the **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act** (RCRA). (Words in **boldface** are defined in the glossary on Page 7.) The Statement of Basis summarizes environmental investigation reports prepared for the Ekco facility that are available for public review along with other facility-related documents in the **administrative record,** which is located at the address listed on the last page of this fact sheet. EPA encourages the public to review these documents to gain a better understanding of the Ekco facility and activities that have been conducted there.

EPA believes that the proposed cleanup plan described on Page 4 of this fact sheet and in greater detail in the Statement of Basis will best protect public health and the environment.

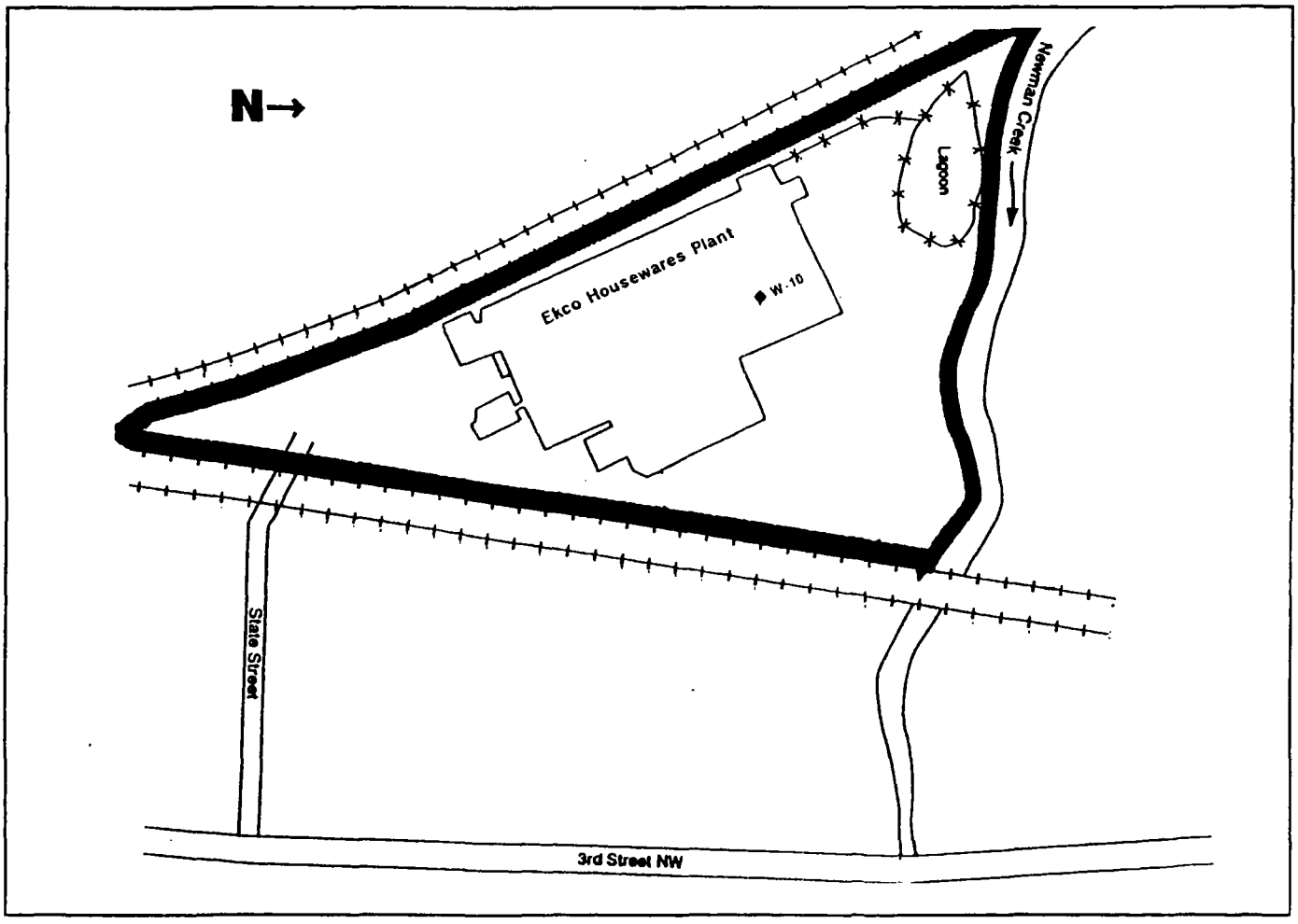
At this point, the cleanup plan is just a proposal. *The public is encouraged to take part in the cleanup plan selection process by submitting comments to EPA during a public comment period to be held from August 26 to September 26, 1996.* EPA may modify the proposed cleanup plan or select another plan based on new information or public comments.

FACILITY HISTORY

The Ekco facility is located on approximately 13 acres in Massillon, Stark County, Ohio. The area surrounding the facility is largely urban and industrial. The Ekco property lies an estimated 1,500 feet west of the Tuscarawas River and is bordered to the north by Newman Creek and to the south, east, and west by railroad tracks. A map of the facility is shown below.

In the 1940's, the Ekco facility manufactured aluminum and stainless steel cookware. By 1951, the facility was also manufacturing shell casings for the military. Increased production led to the drilling of two production wells at the facility. In 1953, Ekco installed a sewer to carry plant waste to a discharge point along Newman Creek and also constructed a lagoon (**surface impoundment**) adjacent to the creek. Waste associated with plant activities and sludge from waste treatment was discharged to the surface impoundment. The surface impoundment was used from 1953 to 1977 and from 1980 to 1984. In 1954, Ekco began coating the cookware manufactured at the facility. From 1954 to 1960, Ekco used solvents, which contained **volatile organic compounds (VOCs)**, in the cleaning process prior to coating. Porcelain and Teflon coating units were installed in 1976. In 1980, Ekco again began to use a solvent which contained VOCs for cleaning and continues to use it today.

Between 1979 and 1980, a major solvent spill occurred at the facility. The quantity, location, and extent of the spill was not documented. In 1992, a 50-gallon spill was reported to have occurred in the west side of the facility. In 1984, water in the production wells was sampled and analyzed. VOCs were detected in the groundwater samples, indicating that VOCs had migrated from soil into groundwater.



EKCO HOUSEWARES, INC., FACILITY MAP

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS

Ekco began an environmental investigation in 1984. Soil and water samples were collected from seven locations around the facility. Samples contained various concentrations of VOCs. To control **migration** of the VOCs and remediate groundwater, a **pump-and-treat** program was initiated at production well W-10. An **air stripping** system was installed to treat the groundwater recovered from well W-10.

In June 1986, Ekco began development of a preliminary closure plan for the lagoon. In September 1987, a groundwater quality assessment was conducted to collect baseline information and determine the need for interim cleanup measures at the facility. VOCs were detected in groundwater samples from on-site **monitoring wells** installed in both shallow soils and **bedrock**. A groundwater quality assessment program was started in 1988 to evaluate groundwater conditions at the facility.

In 1989, EPA and Ekco signed a **consent agreement** under which Ekco agreed to conduct a **RCRA facility investigation (RFI)**. RFI field activities began in April 1991 and included groundwater, surface water, soil, and soil gas sampling. RFI results indicate that the main sources of VOC contamination are located near well W-10 and the tank area north of the facility. On-site groundwater is contaminated and has migrated off site beyond the north and east Ekco property boundaries. An estimated 3,500 cubic yards of contaminated soil is located under the facility building, and 4,900 cubic yards of contaminated soil is located outside the building on the facility property. Based on information gathered during the RFI, Ekco conducted a **corrective measures study** (CMS) to identify and evaluate alternatives for cleaning up facility contamination.

HEALTH RISKS

As part of the CMS, a study called a "baseline risk assessment" was conducted to determine potential risks to human health and the environment posed by contamination at the Ekco facility based on its present condition. Specifically, the study assesses health risks to people who might live on the Ekco property in the future if groundwater or soil contamination is not remediated and the existing groundwater pump-and-treat system is no longer used. Health risks were evaluated based on exposure to VOCs present in groundwater in the shallow and intermediate portions of the bedrock (the upper groundwater unit) and the lower portion of the bedrock (the lower groundwater unit).

The baseline risk assessment evaluated two types of human health risks: carcinogenic risks and noncarcinogenic risks. Carcinogenic risk is expressed in terms of the increased likelihood that additional cases of cancer could potentially develop in a population as a result of exposure to cancer-causing contaminants over a lifetime. Noncarcinogenic risk is expressed in terms of whether adverse health effects other than cancer could potentially be caused by exposure to contaminants.

Overall, the greatest risks posed by the Ekco facility would result from residents drinking groundwater and breathing in contaminants while showering in groundwater. The results of the baseline risk assessment show that VOCs present in the upper groundwater unit at the Ekco facility pose a lifetime cancer risk of $1x10^{-2}$, meaning that the potential exists for 1 future resident at the Ekco property out of 100 to develop cancer as a result of exposure to contaminants in the upper groundwater unit if no cleanup measures are taken at the facility. The assessment also showed that the potential exists for 1 future resident out of 1,000 to develop cancer (expressed as a risk of $1x10^{-3}$) as a result of exposure to contaminants in the groundwater unit if no cleanup measures are taken. In addition, the risk assessment showed that exposure to contaminants in the upper and lower groundwater units would pose potential noncancer health risks as well.

In accordance with EPA and federal law requirements, cleanup actions must be taken at sites or facilities that pose potential cancer risks of greater than 1 in 10,000 (expressed as $1x10^{-4}$) or that pose potential adverse noncancer risks. Therefore, cleanup actions are required at the Ekco facility.

THE PROPOSED CLEANUP PLAN

RFI results show that soil and groundwater contaminated with VOCs at the Ekco facility should be cleaned up. A number of alternatives were identified and evaluated for cleaning up soil and groundwater contamination during the CMS. All of the alternatives are described and compared in detail in the CMS report, which is available for review at the location listed on the last page of this fact sheet.

Based on the CMS, EPA has identified the alternative that it believes is best for cleaning up VOCs at the facility. The proposed cleanup alternative includes measures for cleaning up groundwater and two areas of soil at the facility beneath and outside the facility building. The proposed alternative consists of the components discussed below.

VOCs in groundwater would be removed by a process called "air sparging" (AS), also known as "**in situ** air stripping." AS is an effective option for treating groundwater contaminated with VOCs. The process basically transfers VOCs, which evaporate easily when exposed to air, from a liquid to a vapor phase. A system of injection wells injects air into groundwater. VOCs are dissolved in the groundwater volatilize into the air as air bubbles. **Soil vapor extraction (SVE)** wells are then used to collect vapor-phase VOCs as they migrate upward through the soil subsurface. Once contaminated vapors are removed from the soil subsurface, they are treated using a vapor treatment system. At the Ekco facility, the vapor would be treated with **granular activated carbon (GAC)** filters.

The air stripping system currently being used at the facility would continue to be operated to provide further groundwater treatment. Groundwater would be monitored to ensure the effectiveness of treatment. Well permit restrictions would be placed on the property to restrict the placement of drinking wells in the area of the contaminated groundwater.

VOC-contaminated soil both beneath and outside the Ekco building would be treated by an SVE system to remove VOCs using the same process described above. Air injection vents and recovery vents would be installed in each contaminated soil area. The removed VOCs would be treated using GAC, if necessary.

The total estimated cost for treating contaminated groundwater is $3,259,700. The total estimated costs for treating contaminated soil is $771,000 for treating soil beneath the facility building and $1,340,000 for treating soil outside the building.

Objectives for cleanup at the Ekco facility include (1) meeting regulatory standards for VOCs detected in all groundwater zones at the facility, (2) continuing the prevention of contaminant migration from the facility property, and (3) meeting regulatory standards for VOCs detected in soil. The recommended alternative would successfully meet all of these objectives.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Before selecting a final cleanup remedy for the Ekco facility, EPA is soliciting input from the community on all of the cleanup alternatives evaluated in the CMS as well as on its proposed cleanup plan. ***EPA has set a public comment period from August 26 through September 26, 1996, to give the public an opportunity to submit formal comments and participate in the cleanup selection process.*** Written comments can be submitted to EPA at the addresses listed on the last page. After consideration of the comments received, EPA will select the final cleanup plan and document the selection in a document called a "Response to Comments (RTC)", which will be available to the public at the location listed on the last page. Public comments will be summarized in the RTC.

USE THIS SPACE TO WRITE YOUR COMMENTS

Your input on the proposed cleanup plan and all of the cleanup alternatives considered for the Ekco Housewares, Inc., facility is important. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will carefully consider all comments provided by the public during the public comment period.

Use the space below to write your comments, and then tear out, fold, and mail this sheet. **Comments must be postmarked by September 26, 1996.** If you have questions about the public comment period, please contact Cheryl Allen at the telephone number listed on the last page of this fact sheet.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone No. (_____) _____

PUBLIC COMMENT SHEET

Fold on Dashed Lines, Staple, Stamp, and Mail

Name_____
Address_____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____

Place Stamp Here

Cheryl Allen
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard (P-19J)
Chicago, IL 60604

GLOSSARY

Administrative record: A file that is maintained and contains all information used by the lead agency to make its decision on the selection of a response action. The file is available for public review.

Air stripping: A treatment system that removes, or strips, volatile organic compounds (VOC) from contaminated groundwater or surface water by forcing an air stream through the water and causing the VOCs to evaporate.

Bedrock: A term applied to solid rock underlying soil.

Consent agreement: A legal agreement between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the party potentially responsible for contaminating a site or facility whereby the party agrees to perform or pay the cost of a site or facility cleanup. This agreement describes actions to be taken at the site or facility and may be subject to a public comment period.

Corrective measures study (CMS): A study that develops and evaluates alternatives for addressing contamination at a RCRA facility.

Granular activated carbon: A treated material that attracts VOCs.

In situ: A term meaning "in place." An in situ treatment system treats material in place without requiring excavation, removal, or transport.

Migration: The uncontrolled movement of a contaminant or contaminants from one location to another.

Monitoring wells: A special well drilled at a specific location on or off a hazardous waste site from which groundwater can be sampled at selected depths to determine the direction of groundwater flow and the types and amounts of contaminants present in groundwater.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA): A federal law that established a regulatory system to track hazardous wastes from the time they are generated to the time they are disposed. The law requires that safe and secure procedures be used to treat, transport, store, and dispose of hazardous wastes. RCRA is designed to prevent the creation of new, uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.

RCRA facility investigation (RFI): An investigation that evaluates the nature and extent of releases of hazardous waste and hazardous constituents at a facility and that gathers necessary data to support the corrective measures study and interim protective measures.

Surface impoundment: A pond used to treat, store, or dispose of liquid hazardous wastes.

Volatile organic compound: An organic (carbon-containing) compound that evaporates readily at room temperature.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information about the Ekco facility or have questions, please contact one of the following EPA representatives:

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Agency, Region 5 (DRE-8J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 886-7568

Cheryl Allen
Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency, Region 5 (P-19J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 353-6196

Toll free no.: 1-800-621-8431

The administrative record, a record of all the information used or considered in making cleanup decisions at the Ekco facility, including the RFI and CMS reports and the Statement of Basis, is available for public review at the following location:

Massillon Public Library
208 Lincoln Way East
Massillon, OH 44648
(216) 832-9831

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division
77 West Jackson Boulevard (DRE-8J)
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED